

February 13, 1973

(Start Belt #11)

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion of the bill? Question is, shall L.B. 30 be advanced from general file to E&R initial. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 31 ayes, no nays and 18 not voting.

SPEAKER: The bill is advanced. That moves us to the general file consideration of L.B. 185, Senator Chambers' bill.

CLERK: Legislative Bill 185, introduced by Senator Chambers of the 11th District. (read) There are committee amendments by Senator Tom Kennedy's committee.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Kennedy for the committee amendments to L.B. 185.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Committee amendment read. This changes the language to conform with--just a second here, just prescribed by regulations or rules so that we'll know that it's an absolutely positive situation. I would move that this amendment be adopted.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion of the committee amendment? Senator Chambers, did you wish to be heard on the amendment? Any further discussion of the committee amendment. Question is shall the committee amendment as explained by Senator Kennedy to L.B. 185 be adopted. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say no. Amendment is adopted. There were no further amendments? Thank you. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. I'll be brief in explaining this bill, then I'll entertain any questions and Senator Goodrich as I anticipate on every bill I introduce, has put a kill motion on this bill. The reason I know because he wrote me a little note this morning explaining that as a courtesy to me, he would let me know in advance, which I did know in advance without the note; but anyway, this bill deals with aid to families with dependent children. To sum the whole thing up in a nutshell, there is an amount of money prescribed by the State Welfare Department which it says is necessary for a family to meet a minimum standard of decency, minimum. Then the State Welfare Department, because of restrictions imposed by the Legislature, are allowed to pay only 60% of this amount so this bill would state that once the Welfare Department has determined that a certain amount of money is necessary for a minimum standard of human decency, then the Legislature will authorize the Welfare Department to pay that amount of money. There are difficulties with this classification of recipient because the amounts that are required to be paid for rent, for utilities, for food, for clothing and other necessities are rising all the time. With the amounts of money that the State offers, a lot of these bills cannot be met. MUD and OPPD can testify to the fact that during the particularly cold months this summer, a lot of these people were threatened with cutoff of utilities, so I'm asking that this bill be advanced to general file and before I sit down and allow Mr. Goodrich to make the motion that he has already said he is going to make, I would like to point out to you that to implement this bill would cost about six million dollars. Now, ADC is the most vulnerable portion of the entire welfare program. Senator Goodrich has often spoken out in behalf of nursing homes. I don't know what his interest is, but a bill that I managed to get through last session's Legislature, even over veto of the